Hotline between Coast Guards of India and Pakistan

809. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed to Pakistan for a hotline between the Coast Guards of the two countries;

(b) whether India has also suggested non-arrest of fishermen in a certain earmarked zone within the territorial waters; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Pak Government on both the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan, on October 29, 2003, welcomed the Indian proposal to establish a hotline between the Indian Coast Guard and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency. As regards, non arrest of fishermen in the earmarked zone. Pakistan suggested working out of a mechanism so that the arrested fishermen are released within a month.

Employment to Ex-Jawans

810. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ex-jawans who are yet to be rehabilitated by providing employment;

(b) the mechanism to ensure that such jawans are provided suitable employment within a time frame;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are many cases that on account of non-payment of bribes these jawans who have applied in response to advertised posts do not get jobs; and

(d) whether Government propose to contact all the unemployed ex-jawans to bring to the Government's notice cases of bribes affecting them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per the information received from the various Zila Sainik Boards/ Rajya Sainik Boards, about 3.75 lakhs ex-jawans (ex-Servicemen) were registered with them for employment assistance as on 31.12.2002.